

## Miscellany.

### WHEAT AS A FODDER FOR HORSES.

Is wheat a good thing to feed horses? Some of the farmers in western Maryland have been giving wheat to the stock rather than sell it at the present low market price, and they have discussed this question very much for several weeks.

Dr. Robert Ward, state veterinarian, says that wheat is exceedingly injurious, and these are some of the reasons he gives for his opinion: "Wheat, as every one knows, contains a large amount of albuminous matter or gluten. Now when this gets into the stomach or smaller intestines of a horse, it reacts chemically with the gastric juice there. It is not assimilated as more digestible food would be, but begins to ferment and give off gasses, and the stomach becomes swollen and distorted. It is just exactly the same principle as the one which a cook takes advantage of when she mixes up flour for bread and sets it to rise. The horse has a feeling of flatulency in his stomach after eating a lot of wheat, and when the diet is kept up for any length of time I have frequently known of horses dying from rupture of the bowels and similar troubles. If the wheat is burned or malted before it is given the stock, it ought to be very fattening, for the process of fermentation has taken place before it gets to the animal's stomach. Wheat is almost but not quite as injurious to swine as to horses, because the hog's stomach is larger than a horse's. I am not sure that there is any danger in feeding it to cattle. The cow has four stomachs, and being a ruminant animal, with plenty of saliva, she brings up the food from her first stomach, remasticates it, and thus makes it easier to assimilate when it goes down again."—[Baltimore Sun.]

### SHERMAN'S WONDERFUL MEMORY.

The prodigious memory of certain great men has often been remarked. It is a surprising fact that military men, whose minds one would think would be filled with great and startling circumstances, to the exclusion of all small matters, often remember trifling occurrences. General Sherman three years ago was visiting Philadelphia. Standing one day at a window he saw a big policeman with a very long beard go by on the street. The general uttered an exclamation of surprise, but said nothing more. Next day he saw the same long-bearded policeman go by, and this time sent a messenger out and asked the man to come in. The policeman presently entered the room and made a military salute to the general.

"Yes," said General Sherman, "It's the very man! Do you remember me, Mr. Officer?"

"Certainly I do general," said the policeman.

"And do you remember where we first met?"

"Yes, sir. It was in California. You were only a lieutenant then, and I was your drummer."

"That's it," said General Sherman, "and instead of that beard you had barely a hair or two, maybe, on your chin. And if I am not mistaken your name is Hutchinson."

"So it is, general," said the policeman.

They entered into a conversation on the old times in California and Mexico. The general had not seen the old drummer since the Mexican War, and had never seen him with a beard, but recognized him at the first glance on the street after forty years had passed by.—[Philadelphia Press.]

### A KITTEN AND AN ALLIGATOR.

"Tabby," the cat, manifested great curiosity, not unmixed with jealousy, when Belzebub was installed as a family pet; and she acquired the unkind habit of walking up to him at every opportunity, and showing her displeasure by deliberately cutting him with her paw. Then she would retire, showing evident satisfaction as if she had performed a duty.

This was done once too often; for Belzebub had evidently harbored in his memory her former insults, and this last one proved too much for his injured spirit. His eyes flashed with a yellowish light, and when Tabby was walking away, he scrambled after seized her tail and clung to it viciously. This frightened the bully, and she started on a race around the room, taking aerial flights over chairs and tables, with Belzebub desperately clinging to her tail. When we released the panic-stricken Tabby, we were surprised to find that Belzebub was none the worse for his wild experience, and with widely distended jaws, he breathed a general defiance; but Tabby had received a lesson, and she never molested Belzebub again.—[January St. Nicholas.]

### A VERMONT SHEEP DOG.

Here is a true story of a Vermont sheep-dog which Scotchmen will find it hard to match: Captain C— of Bradford, Vt., had a "shepherd dog" which was accustomed to bring home the cows at night, always separating them from the other cattle, and never allowing any but his cows to come up. One day Captain C— accompanied the dog in driving the cows to pasture. At one place on the road the Captain was surprised to see the dog desert the herd and take to the woods by the side of the road. The Captain went on with the cattle, which were walking briskly in advance. Within a quarter of a mile they came to a break in the fence, where the Captain had no knowledge, leading into a field, and here, in the

gap of the fence sat the dog in a matter-of-fact way, guarding it against the entrance of the cattle. What else could his master suppose than that the dog was aware of the gap in the fence, and knowing that the man would bring up the cattle, made a detour through the woods to the place to prevent the cattle from going into the field?—[Boston Transcript.]

### CHINESE BOATS PROPELLED BY TREADMILLS.

The stern-wheeled paddle-boats puzzled me greatly. I could see no funnel, no smoke, nor any of the usual accessories of a steamer, yet the wheels revolved as in a steamer. When one of them came close to me, however, the mystery was made clear. Under the deck of the boat—indeed, there were usually two or three decks, and a vast number of passengers—near the stern were three or four wooden drums running the whole width of the boat. The drums had cams, or steps, attached to them, and a row of men at each drum, holding on to a handle above, stepped from cam to cam as their weight brought them round, just as if they were working a treadmill; the faster they stepped the faster the ship went. The gearing from the drums to the paddle-wheel was of the most primitive description. Occasionally, when the wind was fair, large sails were hoisted and sideboards to prevent leeway were put down; but even then the men on the treadmill did not cease working.—[Scenes in Canton] in the Century for January.

### WHAT THE CHURCHES IN VERMONT ARE DOING.

From one of the smaller churches in the state, there were sent out last fall nineteen young men and women to schools and to business. What wonder that every department of church work is feeling it? It took one whole class of young men, and all save one of a class of young women, from the Sunday-school. It took a large proportion of the active membership of the Christian Endeavor Society, and many from the choir. It took leaders in the social life of the church and village.

Of this number, eight young men and women went to college, four going to the University of Vermont, three to Oberlin and to one Dartmouth. Two went to normal schools, one to a business college, one was married, and the remainder went out as teachers or into business. The most of these have their homes with this church still, and will doubtless have their names reported among the seventy resident members this year. Yet what church in the state would not feel an exodus like that, even though temporary?

A visitor to the parish this winter will find no signs of discouragement, or cessation of activity in any department. There are more young people left, and it will not be many years before the process will be repeated, though probably never again in such magnitude. Measured by the vitality shown in service, the older members here are young, and so long as a few of the present membership are left, there will be "no hanging of the harps upon the willows" in this locality. The church is found in Ludlow.—[Vermont Missionary.]

The body of Walter Carrier, who disappeared from Bridport several weeks ago, was found recently in a hay mow. It was badly eaten by rats. On the body was found a watch and a bottle of whiskey. Carrier was an eccentric character, and was either frozen to death or committed suicide.

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